

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 00184 131423Z

63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 131400Z JAN 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

SECSTATE WASHDC 1014

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 0184

H PASS CODEL

PASS STR FOR INFO

PASS AGRIC AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN ETRD

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS: EC AND CANADIAN OFFERS

1. EUROPEAN REPORT, PRIVATELY OWNED TWICE WEEKLY INFORMATION BULLETIN, DATE-LINED TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS OF EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE OFFER COVERS 1.8 BILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT, 1.2 BILLION OF WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM MFN TARIFF CONCESSIONS. THE OFFER IS SAID TO INCLUDE TARIFF AND TAX CONCESSIONS ON GOODS SUCH AS COFFEE, TEA, BANANAS, SPICES AND COCOA. THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT MFN CONCESSION WOULD APPLY TO COFFEE (CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 00184 131423Z

TARIFF 7 PCT) WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 800 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT.

THE DEPTH OF CUT ON COFFEE IS KNOWN TO EXCEED A 1 PCT TARIFF REDUCTION. GSP CONCESSIONS INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 1976 SCHEME APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER; INCREASES IN PREFERENTIAL TARIFF MARGINS FOR PRODUCTS ALREADY COVERED BY EC GSP; AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRODUCTS IN THE SCHEME. EUROPEAN REPORT ADVISES MOST CONTROVERSIAL ELEMENT OF OFFER AS THE ABOLITION OF EXCISE AND OTHER SUCH TAXES CHARGED ON IMPORTS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS BY MEMBER STATES (READ ITALY AND GERMANY). THE COMMISSION STATES IS PROPOSING THAT THE OFFER TAKE EFFECT BY JANUARY 1, 1977. OFFER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF EC DEL (ABBOTT) COMMENT TO CULBERT THAT HE COMMISSION DELIBERATELY SUBMITTING A MAXIMAL OFFER WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE WHITTLED DOWN BY MEMBER STATES.

2. SKETCHY DETAILS OF CANADIAN TP OFFER CONVEYED IN A BILATERAL DISCUSSION ARE AS FOLLOWS: MFN CONCESSIONS WILL BE OFFERED ON 22 PRODUCTS (TRADE VALUE APPROXIMATELY \$60 MILLION) AND IMPROVEMENT OF GSP (55 PRODUCTS). GSP IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE ESTABLISHING DUTY-FREE GSP TREATMENT ON CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE AND SOME PINEAPPLE PRODUCTS.

3. FOR USEC: CONFIRMATION OR CORRECTION OF INFO PARA 1 PLUS ANY SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO GENEVA AND WASHINGTON.

4. FOR OTTAWA: MTN DEL UNDERSTANDS THAT DUTY FOR CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE (5PCT) IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SUSPENSION EXPIRES IN FEBURARY. CAN EMBASSY ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUSPENSION WILL BE CONTINUED IN FEBURARY? CULBERT

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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